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*Assembly  
California Legislature*



**TIM LESLIE**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FOURTH DISTRICT  
September 1, 2004

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DEVELOP A MASTER PLAN TO END POVERTY IN CA.  
FAIRS ALLOCATION & CLASSIFICATION

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor  
State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

I respectfully request your veto of Senate Bill 1648 (Chesbro), which will redefine the mission of California's publicly owned demonstration forests.

Over the past several years, this state has been zealous in its pursuit to preserve our natural resources. Rather than "conserve" so that future generations will have ample resources, we have enacted law after law that has made it near impossible for us to use our resources.

By following this path, we have ignored our role in the global environment. Even as we have diminished our ability to use our resources, demand for them has increased as our population has risen. Wood products for homes and other goods are being imported from fragile regions in the Amazon and Canadian forests, where clear-cutting is the normal timber harvesting practice. We are dredging the shores of Vancouver, creating a mess for the locals, in order to obtain the cement we need to complete the new span of the Bay Bridge. Our resistance to building responsible oil platforms that adhere to our rules means we are aiding in the destruction of critical habitat in South America.

Our environmental policies, while well intentioned, have gone far beyond the laudable goal of environmental conservation, and have instead pushed California into a preservation mode at the expense of the global community. The shocking thing is that this Legislature knows how excessive our environmental laws have become – time and again even staunch environmentalists vote to grant exemptions for projects deemed too important to navigate through our environmental red tape. Pac Bell Park, the San Francisco Airport, and BART have all benefited from CEQA exemptions in the last several years.

The main problem with SB 1648 is that it will only exacerbate our need for materials from less protected regions out of state. SB 1648 redefines, 'management' so that it excludes timber production, limiting our access to resources that are desperately needed in this state. I would much rather have wood come from intelligently managed California forests than from fragile regions outside our country.

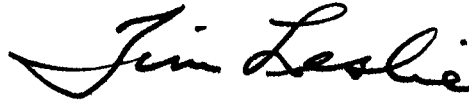
I also disagree with SB 1648's directive that 'even-aged' regeneration be limited to research only. Even-age forest management has been studied for decades at the Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) and other forests around the world. The predominant forest at JDSF is the Douglas-fir/redwood type, which requires open sunlight for successful reproduction.

SB 1648 will drastically alter the role that the JDSF was intended to carry out. JDSF was created in order to manage a research and demonstration forest to increase our knowledge and understanding of active forestry operations for the state. If the state alters the role of JDSF, we will lose key information on

watershed function and sustainable resource management activities that are vital to ensuring the overall health of California's ecosystem. Many of this state's best management techniques have been developed through research at JDSF, and therefore this bill should not be signed into law.

Again, I respectfully request that you veto SB 1648. Thank you for your kind consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Leslie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tim" and last name "Leslie" clearly distinguishable.

**TIM LESLIE**  
**Assemblyman, Fourth District**

TL: kto